

# Parasite Resistance

## *Why is resistance a concern?*

- ▶ Small strongyles – the major target of parasite control in mature horses – have demonstrated resistance to two of the three major de-wormer classes.
- ▶ While products in the third class still control small strongyles, resistance could develop from overuse.
- ▶ Rotation has not slowed resistance.

## *Which parasites should we care about?*

- ▶ Small strongyles, roundworms (ascarids) and tapeworms are the greatest threat to horse health. Others are considered case by case.

## *What can we do to protect your horse?*

- ▶ Use fecal egg count reduction tests to monitor product efficacy and worm burden by horse.
- ▶ Implement a strategic de-worming program that does not try to eliminate *all* worms by treating *all* horses *all* the time.
- ▶ Slow further resistance by selectively treating horses with products that still work well.

## *Strategic de-worming programs focus on:*

### Small strongyles ...

- ▶ Can cause mild colic (may be chronic), weight loss, diarrhea, loss of appetite, poor coat condition and intestinal ulcers.
- ▶ Virtually all grazing horses are infected.
- ▶ Horses never develop total immunity.
- ▶ Well-documented resistance to benzimidazole and pyrantel products.

### Roundworms (ascarids) ...

- ▶ The greatest concern for horses under 6 months of age.
- ▶ Healthy older horses have immunity but can still shed eggs.
- ▶ Adults cluster in the small intestine causing impaction, often with colic, that can result in a ruptured gut and death.

### Tapeworms ...

- ▶ Virtually all grazing horses are at risk.
- ▶ Contribute to colic by causing inflammation, ulceration and bowel obstruction.

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